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Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the thirty-ninth submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2191 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2258 (2015) and paragraph 5 of resolution 2332 (2016), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on the data available to United Nations agencies on the ground and from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other Syrian and open sources. Data from United Nations agencies on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for the period from 1 to 30 April 2017.

Box 1
Key points in April 2017

(1) Notwithstanding the ceasefire declared as at 30 December 2016, fighting in multiple areas resulted in continued civilian deaths and injury and the destruction of civilian infrastructure.

(2) The United Nations estimates that, as of the end of April, some 624,500 people were living under siege in the Syrian Arab Republic, the overwhelming majority of sieges being imposed by Government forces and their allies (82 per cent) and by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Dayr al-Zawr (15 per cent). Furthermore, the United Nations estimates that some 3.9 million people are in hard-to-reach areas. These numbers are subject to change, given the ongoing evacuation processes in some areas.

(3) On 4 April, there were reports of a chemical weapons attack, in the Khan Shaykhun area of southern Idlib, that killed 90 people and injured 200. In response, on 7 April, the United States of America fired 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the Sha'irat military airbase in rural Homs, asserting that the airbase was used to launch the reported chemical weapons strike on Khan Shaykhun.

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(4) After reaching a local agreement on 27 March regarding the four towns of Madaya and Zabadani, in Rif Dimashq, and Fu'ah and Kafraya, in Idlib, simultaneous evacuations began on 15 April. While buses of evacuees waited for hours on either side of the checkpoint in Rashidin while parties addressed disagreements regarding the exchange, a car bomb struck the convoy originating in Fu'ah and Kafraya, killing at least 125 people and injuring 413. No party or group has claimed responsibility for this terrorist attack. Emergency medical care was swiftly provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Syrian Arab Republic and from Turkey, as well as by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

(5) The Brussels conference on the Syrian Arab Republic and the region successfully concluded on 5 April, with strong expressions of international commitment to continue to respond to the Syrian conflict.

(6) From 19 April, displacement in Raqqah governorate reportedly increased significantly, as non-State armed groups advanced to within 20 kilometres of ISIL-held Raqqah city. A total of 66,275 people were displaced in April, including approximately 39,000 people who were displaced to the Jubb al-Sha'ir area on 24 April.

(7) The United Nations and health partners received credible reports of 30 attacks that affected medical facilities and personnel throughout the month of April. The United Nations received credible information of two attacks against education facilities and related protected personnel.

II. Major developments

3. Throughout the month of April, intensified military activity continued, with fighting, including air strikes and artillery shelling, between pro-Government forces and non-State armed opposition groups reported in the governorates of Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Hama, Dar'a, Qunaytirah, Aleppo, Idlib, Homs and Ladhiqiyah. Pro-Government forces, Syrian Democratic Forces led by the Kurdish People's Protection Units, and the international coalition led by the United States of America to counter ISIL all continued their offensives against ISIL targets in Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr governorates.

4. On 4 April, the reported use of chemical weapons in an air strike in the Khan Shaykhun area of southern Idlib killed 90 and injured 200 people. In response, on 7 April, the United States fired 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the Sha'irat military airbase in rural Homs, asserting that this airbase had been used to launch the chemical weapons strike on Khan Shaykhun. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has determined, from biomedical samples, that victims of the attack were exposed to sarin, or a sarin-like substance. The OPCW fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic is investigating the attack and is ready to deploy to Khan Shaykhun should the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic facilitate the visit and the security situation permit.

5. After reaching a local agreement on 27 March regarding the four towns of Madaya and Zabadani, in Rif Dimashq, and Fu'ah and Kafraya, in Idlib, simultaneous evacuations began on 15 April. Buses of evacuees waited for hours on either side of the checkpoint in Rashidin in Aleppo governorate while parties addressed disagreements regarding the exchange, and during that time a car bomb struck the convoy originating in Fu'ah and Kafraya, killing at least 125 people and injuring 413. No party or group has claimed responsibility for this terrorist attack. First responders, including the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and some 15 Syrian NGOs

and local health authorities, provided care and transferred 275 injured persons to hospitals across Idlib. Some 10 of these cases were referred for treatment in Turkey. Another 138 patients were referred for treatment in Aleppo.

6. Despite the attack, the 15 April evacuation proceeded, with approximately 5,000 persons evacuated from Fu'ah and Kafraya to a transit point at the Mahalij shelter in Jibreen, Aleppo governorate, and 2,350 persons evacuated from Madaya and Zabadani to Idlib. On 19 April, another evacuation was concluded, involving 3,000 additional persons evacuated from Fu'ah and Kafraya in return for the evacuation of more than 550 fighters and their family members from Zabadani, Madaya, Wadi Barada, Sirghaya and neighbouring areas. While the United Nations has not been involved in the negotiations, agreement or evacuations, it did provide humanitarian assistance, including food and non-food items such as mattresses, through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to those who were evacuated from Fu'ah and Kafraya to the transit point at the Mahalij shelter and to final destination areas in Rif Dimashq, Homs, Tartus and Ladhiqiyah. For those evacuating from Madaya and Zabadani, humanitarian partners set up reception centres in Idlib city and Ma'arratmisrin.

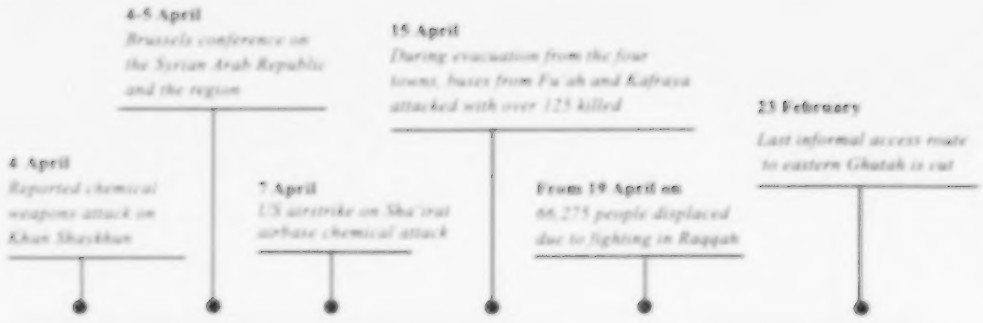
7. Evacuations from the Wa'r neighbourhood of the city of Homs subsequent to the 13 March local agreement between the Government and non-State armed opposition groups continued throughout the month, with five evacuations taking place on 1, 8, 18, 24 and 30 April respectively. If the first two rounds of evacuation on 13 and 27 March are included, a total of 10,254 people were evacuated as part of the agreement by the end of April. All evacuations are expected to be completed by mid-May. All but two of the evacuations have been to the Jarabulus district of Aleppo, with the others going to Idlib. Access into the Jarabulus area by humanitarian partners remains limited. Concerns have been reported regarding the conditions in the Zaghra internally displaced persons camp, where most evacuees are staying, and access to the camp remains restricted.

8. On 25 April, reports of air strikes south of Malikiyah town, in Hasakah governorate, which has a significant NGO presence, including a large number of aid workers, were reported. As a result of the air strikes, some NGOs operating in the area temporarily suspended their activities. Shelling across the border between the Turkish military and non-State armed opposition groups was also reported in Afrin, Aleppo governorate, on 26 and 27 April, and in Ra's al-Ayn, Hasakah governorate, on 27 April. The shelling reportedly hit a grain silo and a water station south of Ra's al-Ayn town. While there were no civilian casualties, hundreds of people were reportedly displaced as a result.

9. From 19 April onwards, increased displacement in Raqqah governorate was reported, as the People's Protection Units-led Syrian Democratic Forces advanced to within 20 kilometres of ISIL-held Raqqah city. The total number of persons internally displaced from the area in April was 66,275, including approximately 39,000 displaced to the Jubb al-Sha'it area on 24 April. As such, the total number of people who have been displaced since the beginning of the Syrian Democratic Forces's Operation Euphrates Wrath exceeds 120,000 people. Freedom of movement of internally displaced persons remains a concern with regards to the ongoing displacement in Raqqah, due to the security screening and sponsorship requirement imposed by the People's Protection Units -led Syrian Democratic Forces for those displaced to remain in the area. Health issues have also been a serious concern at internally displaced person sites, with reports of eight infant deaths at the Karamah site, 20 kilometres east of Raqqah city, where some 80,000 internally displaced persons currently live. The United Nations has also received reports of the death of two children due to a lack of medical care in the Jubb al-Sha'it area. Shelter was

also reported to be a serious issue at the sites, as a majority of the 35,000 reported to be in camps south-east of Ayn Isa are reportedly staying in open areas.

Figure I
Key dates in April 2017


4-5 April
Brussels conference on the Syrian Arab Republic and the region
15 April
During evacuation from the four towns, buses from Fu'ah and Kafraya attacked with over 125 killed
23 February
Last informal access route to eastern Ghutah is cut
4 April
Reported chemical weapons attack on Khan Shaykhun
7 April
US airstrike on Shu'irat airbase chemical attack
From 19 April on
66,275 people displaced due to fighting in Raqqah

Box 2
Brussels conference

(1) The Brussels conference on the Syrian Arab Republic and the region successfully concluded on 5 April, with strong expressions of international commitment to continue to respond to the Syrian conflict. Overall, the conference prominently reinforced calls for unconditional support for ongoing humanitarian and resilience-building activities.

(2) In this regard, participants at the conference highlighted the need for the United Nations to complement the focus on humanitarian priorities with an emphasis on strengthening resilience in order to assure a more sustainable international response to the conflict. The Prime Ministers of Jordan and Lebanon highlighted the need for international support to shift towards supporting long-term development, growth and jobs as a basis for effectively managing the ramifications of the Syrian conflict in neighbouring countries. The conference co-chairs also agreed on the necessity of persistent follow-up to the target, set in London, of 1.1 million jobs for the region. Furthermore, participants agreed to continue to work towards the target of ensuring "No Lost Generation" of children in the Syrian Arab Republic and the region and to increase efforts to reach the goal of ascertaining that all refugee children and vulnerable children in host communities enjoy a quality education, with equal access for boys and girls.

(3) Over 40 donor Governments pledged a combined $6 billion for humanitarian and resilience-building support for both the Syrian Arab Republic and the region for 2017, with an additional $3.7 billion for 2018. The United Nations-coordinated response plans for the Syrian Arab Republic and the region, combined, require $8 billion for 2017 alone.

10. On 23 April, the last informal access route connecting eastern Ghutah with the Qabun district in Damascus was reportedly closed. The result was an immediate spike in commodity prices such as sugar, rice and baby formula. On 28 and 29 April, fighting in eastern Ghuta, including the areas of Irbin, Kafr Batna and Hazzah, between non-State armed opposition groups and the Levant Liberation Organization, an alliance which includes Jabhat Fath al-Sham (formerly known as Nusrah Front), reportedly killed more than 120 people.

11. On 27 April, air strikes reportedly carried out by Israel targeted an arms supply warehouse allegedly operated by Hizbullah near the Damascus international airport.

12. Members of the International Syria Support Group continued their efforts to strengthen the ceasefire across the Syrian Arab Republic. In the framework of the Astana talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran convened an experts' meeting of the three guarantor States, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Turkey, in Tehran on 18 and 19 April. Technical discussions among the three guarantor States and with a delegation of experts from the United Nations that joined the trilateral meetings as observers tackled the ceasefire regime and its implementation, as well as confidence-building measures, including the release of detainees/abductees and the identification of missing persons. A high-level meeting was called for, to be held in Astana on 3 and 4 May.

Protection

13. Air and ground-based strikes continued to kill and injure civilians in significant numbers. As in the past, the high level of civilian casualties continued to raise questions as to whether the principle of distinction and the prohibition on directing attacks against civilians, as well as the prohibition on the launching of indiscriminate attacks and the principles of proportionality and precaution in and against the effects of attacks were respected. Continued attacks resulting in large numbers of civilian casualties — such as those involving the use of toxic agents or the detonation of explosives in the middle of gatherings — put civilians at grave risk, fuelling calls for further violence and pushing the parties to the conflict and supporting States away from seeking a peaceful solution. Children have been particularly affected by the fighting and, in some incidents, constituted the majority of the casualties.

14. The fighting continued to affect civilian infrastructure, including medical personnel and facilities, schools, markets and places of worship. Based on information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), civilian casualties in possible violation of international humanitarian law occurred in various governorates (see annex). OHCHR documented alleged incidents by many parties to the conflict, including Government forces and their allies, non-State armed opposition groups and groups designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council.

15. The United States Department of Defense publicly confirmed that in April, the United States-led coalition carried out 549 strikes against ISIL targets in the governorates of Hasakah, Dayr al-Zawr, Homs and Raqqah. Approximately two thirds of those strikes were reported to have been in Raqqah governorate, and nearly a third in Dayr al-Zawr governorate.

16. The Russian Federation continued to provide air support for Syrian Government forces and their allies, as confirmed by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation in a briefing on 11 April, in which it stated that Russian Aerospace Defence Forces were continuing to provide support to the Syrian army and militia detachments in their fight against ISIL and the Levant Liberation Organization.

17. Although Operation Euphrates Shield was officially declared complete at the end of March 2017, Turkish air and ground forces continued to support non-State armed opposition groups fighting under the Free Syrian Army banner in operations against ISIL, with the reported aim of improving security and eliminating threats along Turkey's border with the Syrian Arab Republic.

18. The United Nations and health partners received credible reports of 30 attacks that affected medical facilities and personnel throughout the month of April. Of these, 21 have been verified to date. Of the verified attacks, 13 involved hospitals, 3 involved primary health-care centres, 3 were attacks on health workers and 2 were attacks on medical points. All facilities went out of service either permanently or temporarily. For example, on 22 April, air strikes in the area of Abdin, Idlib governorate, hit an underground field hospital and reportedly killed four civilians. On 25 April, the Shahid Wasim Husainu hospital in Kafr Takharim city, Idlib governorate, was hit by air strikes, putting it out of service. On 27 April, a surgical specialty hospital in Dayr al-Sharqi, Idlib governorate, was attacked by four air strikes, which resulted in the deaths of three patients and the wounding of three medical personnel. The hospital was heavily damaged and put out of service as a result of the attack. The next day, on 28 April, the Kafr Takharim Women's Hospital, a maternity hospital in Idlib governorate, was damaged by two air strikes. Patients and staff were evacuated to a basement, with no reports of casualties. Medics reported that windows were blown in and a hospital laboratory badly damaged. The hospital serves 2,100 women and children and performs about 550 deliveries each month. In addition, it provides incubator support for premature babies. The closest hospital providing similar services is 43 miles away.

19. Educational facilities continued to be affected as well. The United Nations received credible information of the following attacks to education facilities and related protected personnel. On 1 April, Qunaytirat School, in Qunaytirat village, Aleppo governorate, was targeted with artillery shelling. On 22 April, Hanbushiyeh School, Hambushiyah town, Idlib governorate, was struck by artillery shelling. No casualties were reported. The school was closed after the incident.

Humanitarian access

Box 3
Key points

(1) The United Nations estimates that, as of the end of April, some 624,500 people were living under siege in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Barza and Qabun areas of Damascus were added to the list, while Khan al-Shih and Zabadani were removed. Population estimates and locations were adjusted to reflect evacuation processes. Furthermore, the United Nations estimated that some 3.9 million people were in hard-to-reach areas.

(2) No besieged area was reached through United Nations inter-agency cross-line operations in April, except Dayr al-Zawr (through airdrops). Three inter-agency convoys were deployed in April to hard-to-reach areas: two to northern rural Homs and one to Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham in Damascus. The removal of medical supplies from convoys remains a major challenge, with supplies sufficient for 37,000 people removed in April.

(3) As of the end of April, the United Nations had reached some 192,000 people under the April/May convoy plan. Other inter-agency convoys could not proceed due to lack of approvals, including the lack of facilitation letters by the Syrian authorities; fighting and insecurity; and other restrictions after initial approvals.

(4) During the reporting period, some 1,871,000 beneficiaries were assisted by the United Nations and partners via cross-border operations from Turkey and Jordan.

(5) The United Nations and partners continue to respond to the humanitarian impact of fighting and insecurity in Raqqah and north-eastern Syria. While they are reaching hundreds of thousands in these governorates, restrictions by local authorities on the ground are hindering response efforts, as are the difficulties in getting supplies to the area.

20. The delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need remained extremely challenging in many areas of the country as a result of active conflict, shifting conflict lines, administrative impediments and deliberate restrictions on the movement of people and goods by the parties to the conflict.

21. Following a comprehensive review by the United Nations, it is was estimated that, as of the end of April 2017, some 624,500 people were living in 13 areas under siege. Two locations were added to the list: the Barza and Qabun areas of Damascus, following a sustained period of encirclement by Government forces and a severe tightening of restrictions. Two locations were removed from the previous list: Khan al-Shih in Rif Dimashq, following the implementation of a local agreement that improved access in and out of the area; and Zabadani in Rif Dimashq, where evacuations as a result of an agreement rendered the area empty of a population. Furthermore, population figures were adjusted for other locations on the basis of the most recent and most accurate information received from the ground. This included reductions for Wa'r, Madaya, Fu'ah and Kafraya as a result of evacuations that took place over the weeks preceding the publication of the present report. In addition to besieged locations, some 3.9 million people were in hard-to-reach locations.

List of besieged areas, April 2017

Governorate	*Location*	*Estimated population (as of end April 2017)*	*Besieged by*
Dayr al-Zawr	Dayr al-Zawr	93 500	ISIL
Damascus	Yarmouk	9 800	Government forces and non-State armed opposition groups
Idlib	Fu'ah	12 100	Non-State armed opposition groups
	Kafraya		Non-State armed opposition groups
Rif Dimashq	Qabun and Barzah al Balad	30 000	Government forces
	Madaya/Buqayn	43 300	Government forces
	Duma area (Duma, Shaffuniyah, Hawsh al-Dawahirah)	150 100	Government forces
	Harasta area (Harasta, Mudayra, Misraba)	46 300	Government forces
	Irbin and surrounding area (Irbin, Zamalka and Jawbar)	49 300	Government forces
	Kafr Batna area (Kafr Batna, Ayn Tarma, Hammurah, Jisrayn, Saqba, Aftris, Hazzah, Hawsh al-Ash'ari, Bayt Siwa, Muhammadiyah)	132 400	Government forces
	Nashabiyah area (Nashabiyah, Beyt Navim, Salhiyah, Utaya, Hazrama)	16 500	Government forces
Homs	Wa'r	41 200	Government forces
Total		**624 500**	

22. Access by the United Nations to those living in besieged and hard-to-reach locations remains a critical concern. Three inter-agency convoys were dispatched to besieged and hard-to-reach locations during April. This included the hard-to-reach areas of Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham; Hulah and Harbinafsih; and Dar al-Kabirah, Ghantu and Tarmala. Convoys to other besieged and hard-to-reach areas, including those approved under the April-May inter-agency convoy plan, were unable to proceed as a result of fighting and insecurity, administrative delays by the Syrian authorities and restrictions applied by non-State armed opposition groups.

23. During the reporting period, United Nations agencies also undertook single-agency deliveries to cross-line and hard-to-reach locations or reached those locations through their regular programmes. United Nations agencies encountered difficulties in accessing some locations. For example, despite obtaining the necessary approvals from the respective Government authorities, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was not allowed to enter Yalda with a humanitarian convoy as planned for the month of April, even though an inter-agency convoy was able to reach the area. UNRWA has not been able to reach Yarmouk since May 2016. Meanwhile, NGOs — both international and Syrian — continued to provide medical, education, psychosocial and protection services, as well as some support in related sectors, in hard-to-reach locations, under extremely challenging circumstances.

24. Throughout the period, additional humanitarian actors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, responded in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, in accordance with humanitarian principles.

Figure II

United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations: percentage of people reached each month in besieged areas, including via airdrops to Dayr al-Zawr city

25. A combination of insecurity, deliberate interference and restrictions by the parties to the conflict continued to prevent aid delivery. For example, the majority of United Nations agencies and the majority of its partners continue to be unable to access populations in need in ISIL-controlled areas of the country, as all plans to deliver assistance to these areas have been suspended due to the inability to work independently and monitor activities. This is preventing the United Nations and its humanitarian partners from reaching Raqqah city and most of the Dayr al-Zawr

governorates, as well as pockets of northern rural Aleppo, southern rural Hasakah and north-western rural Hama.

26. Meanwhile, restrictions continue to be imposed by non-State armed opposition groups and other local actors. For example, humanitarian organizations have reported challenges in obtaining approvals from local authorities in Kurdish-controlled areas of north-eastern Syrian Arab Republic, causing delays to programming. In this regard, since 5 April, the Kurdish self-administration has suspended all regular programming activities by the United Nations and international NGOs in Hasakah governorate. The suspensions were preceded by a self-administration request to redirect all supplies from the regular programme to support the response in Raqqah governorate.

27. At the same time, humanitarian access for Turkey-based cross-border partners into Idlib governorate is also reportedly facing more challenges, as non-State armed opposition groups and groups designated by the Security Council as terrorist groups are placing demands on NGOs operating in the governorate. NGOs are being informed of new registration requirements and/or told to provide information on staffing, logistics and finances. Those demands are not being applied consistently and have led some NGOs to scale down or even temporarily suspend their operations, pending a resolution of those issues.

28. In April, after four years of closure, the road between Aleppo and Qamishli was reopened for commercial traffic, following an agreement between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and parties on the ground. However, humanitarian actors are still awaiting formal approvals from the Syrian authorities to use the road, which would significantly improve access and the supply of life-saving items.

Table 1

United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, April 2017

192,100 people reached

People reached in hard-to-reach areas 157,500	People reached in besieged areas 34,600	People reached in priority cross-line areas 0
4.0 per cent People reached in hard-to-reach areas	5.4 per cent People reached in besieged areas	1 of 13 Besieged locations reached
Cross-line convoys 3	Airlifts 41	Airdrops 16

29. Life-saving and life-sustaining medical items sufficient for over 37,000 treatments were removed from convoys in April. The treatments and supplies removed are shown in table 2. Serum drugs, renewable items (razors, scalpel blades and gauze) and items considered as surgical equipment (forceps, scissors and needles) were consistently removed by Government security bodies from midwifery kits, inter-agency emergency health kits, paediatric kits and diarrhoeal disease sets, in inter-agency and single agency convoys, thus hampering their functionality and causing severe deprivation to the beneficiaries. Additional medical supplies were scheduled to be delivered as part of the monthly inter-agency convoy plan, but all but three of the convoys were unable to proceed. Furthermore, since the beginning of 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) has submitted seven single-agency requests to the Syrian Government to access 14 locations in five governorates. The Syrian Government approved two requests, while five requests remain unanswered.

Table 2
Medical supplies removed from humanitarian convoys, April 2017

Location	*Number of treatments*	*Type of supplies*
Yalda, Babila, Bayt Saham	5 800	Inter-agency emergency health kit, pneumonia type A and B kits
Hulah and Harbinafsil	27 111	Antibiotics, vascular medicine, digestive medicine, pneumonia type A and B kits, asthma medicine, antispasmodics
Dar al-Kabirah, Ghantu, and Tarmala	4 795	Atropine, analgesic, cardiac drugs, mental health drugs, syringes, needles and polyvidone were entirely rejected from the approved quantities as well as pneumonia type B kits

30. The United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for April-May requested access to 28 locations, including besieged locations, aiming to reach 1,066,650 people. A total of 764,950 of the 1,066,650 requested beneficiaries (71.7 per cent) were approved: nine locations were approved in full, while 13 locations were approved with conditions on how many people in need would be permitted to be reached in those locations. Six locations comprising over 132,000 people were denied. As of the end of April, the team had reached some 157,500 people with three convoys. Convoys to other approved locations in the plan could not be dispatched in April due to non-approval by the Syrian authorities at the outset; insecurity and fighting; and delays with the issuance of facilitation letters in some instances.

31. Individual agencies continued to submit requests for single-agency convoys during the reporting period. For example, during the month of April, the World Food Programme (WFP) submitted 1,698 official requests to obtain facilitation letters to transport food assistance to targeted locations across the country, the vast majority of which were for regularly accessible areas. Of these, eight requests did not receive approval or response from the relevant authorities, preventing the delivery of food assistance for 30,000 people in Homs, Dar'a and Rif Dimashq governorates. UNHCR submitted 45 facilitation letters for the movement of non-food items and livelihood kits within the Syrian Arab Republic, mostly to areas accessible under regular programming. All were approved.

32. The Nusaybin/Qamishli crossing in Hasakah governorate has been temporarily closed by the Turkish authorities since 27 December 2015 because of security concerns. This has interrupted land deliveries of United Nations humanitarian assistance to Hasakah governorate through borders surrounding the governorate.

Hasakah governorate also remains largely inaccessible by road for United Nations agencies from within the Syrian Arab Republic due to insecurity and the presence of ISIL along the routes. However, the road from Aleppo through Manbij to Hasakah has reopened for commercial traffic. While discussions continue to seek to identify a land route for life-saving United Nations aid, the United Nations continues with airlifts from Damascus to Qamishli airport to deliver multisectoral assistance.

Humanitarian response

33. In April, United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need through all modalities from within the Syrian Arab Republic and across its borders (see table 3). In addition to the United Nations and partners, NGOs continued to deliver life-saving assistance to people in need, in line with previous months. The Government continued to provide basic services to those areas under its control and in many areas beyond its control. Local authorities in many areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups also continued to provide services when possible.

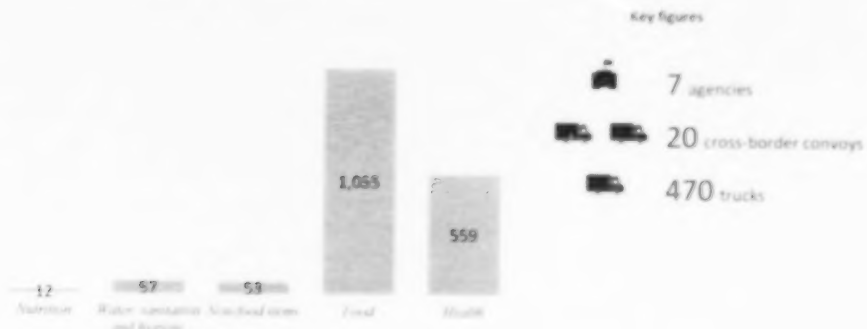
Table 3
Number of people reached by the United Nations and other organizations, April 2017

Organization	*Number of people reached*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	243 198
International Organization for Migration	
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	297 046
United Nations Children's Fund	>1 500 000
United Nations Development Programme	1 811 402
United Nations Population Fund	190 807
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	418 000
World Food Programme	3 760 000
World Health Organization	1 561 851

34. During the reporting period cross-border deliveries continued from Turkey and Jordan into the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014) 2191 (2014) 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016) (see figure III for details). In line with these resolutions the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment including with respect to the content destination and number of beneficiaries of the shipments. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations monitoring 470 trucks used in 20 convoys by 7 United Nations agencies in April confirming the humanitarian nature of each and notifying the Syrian authorities after each shipment. The Mechanism continued to benefit from excellent cooperation with the Governments of Jordan and Turkey.

Figure III
Number of beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners per cluster through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, April 2017

(Thousands)



35. Inter-agency convoys completed in April 2017 are listed in table 4 below. In total, the United Nations undertook three inter-agency convoys during the reporting month, all part of the April-May inter-agency convoy plan. In April, the logistics cluster on behalf of United Nations agencies completed 16 airdrop rotations to besieged Dayr al-Zawr city, airdropping food rations for some 34,600 people. In April, 41 airlift rotations to Qamishli were completed, airlifting a total of 1,516 metric tons of WFP food and other supplies on behalf of other humanitarian actors. This enabled WFP to provide food assistance for 207,000 people in parts of Hasakah, Raqqah, Aleppo and Dayr al-Zawr governorates, including nearly 130,000 people displaced as a result of ongoing fighting in Raqqah governorate.

Table 4
Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian convoys, April 2017

Date	*Location*	*Requested target (number of beneficiaries)*	*Targeted people reached*	*Type of assistance*
8 April	Yalda, Babila, and Bayt Saham	35 000	35 000	Multisectoral
13 April	Hulah and Harbinafsih	89 000	89 000	Multisectoral
20 April	Dar al-Kabirah, Ghantu and Tarmala	33 500	33 500	Multisectoral

36. While not involved in the evacuation processes, the United Nations and its partners have been assisting civilians in need who have been evacuated from the besieged locations of the Four Towns (Fu'ah, Kafraya, Madaya and Zabadani) and Wa'r. In April, the United Nations and partners visited evacuation centres in rural Homs, Aleppo, Tartus and Ladhiqiyah hosting evacuees from Fu'ah and Kafraya and provided follow-up assistance. Meanwhile, cross-border partners have been responding to those who arrived in Idlib and rural Aleppo from Madaya, Zabadani and Wa'r.

37. The United Nations and partners have continued to respond to the humanitarian impact of fighting in Raqqah governorate. During April, some 221,600 people were reached with food in Raqqah, while over 1,000 tents and other shelter support were set up in various internally displaced person camps and transit sites. Furthermore, up to 1,000 cubic metres of potable water were supplied on a daily basis across various camps and transit sites, while basic relief items, primary health-

care activities, vaccinations and nutritional and educational support continued to be provided by both partners based in the Syrian Arab Republic and cross-border partners. Furthermore, the United Nations and partners launched protection services in camps and transit sites amid concerns related to restrictions on the freedom of movement of internally displaced persons during security screening processes (at checkpoints, assembly points and transit sites).

38. A national polio campaign, supported by WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was conducted from 18 to 27 April. Preliminary results indicate that more than 2.4 million children under five years of age were vaccinated, compared to a target of 2.7 million. The campaign was conducted in all governorates except in parts of Raqqah and Idlib. The polio campaign was suspended in Tall Abyad due to a disagreement with the local authorities. Vaccination activities in rural Dayr al-Zawr were limited to health centres only, as ISIL refused the participation of mobile teams. Vaccines were delivered to East Ghutah in coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

39. During April, UNICEF provided nutrition services for almost 250,000 children and pregnant and lactating mothers through regular programming and cross-border and inter-agency cross-line operations. Nutrition services included preventive, therapeutic and supplementary interventions, including screening and treatment for cases of moderate and severe acute malnutrition. Around 33,500 children and mothers were reached in hard-to-reach locations.

40. On 9 and 10 April, UNRWA teams organized two successful missions to Khan al-Shih to conduct a multisectoral assessment of the services provided to Palestine refugees, including damage to United Nations installations, and to identify the overall needs of the refugees remaining in the area. The teams reported serious damage to UNRWA installations. Two schools and one community-based centre were completely destroyed or damaged, while two schools, one health centre, one sanitation office and one Engaging Youth centre needed further rehabilitation.

41. UNHCR, in conjunction with partners, continued to manage 75 functioning community centres across 11 governorates. Community centres are designed as one-stop-shops, at which a wide range of protection services and livelihood support, income generation, vocational training and life skills development are provided to internally displaced persons and host communities. In April, some 16,000 displaced persons received support through these centres.

42. Throughout the month, the Russian Federation sent to the United Nations information bulletins from the Russian Centre for the reconciliation of opposing sides in the Syrian Arab Republic, which outlined the provision of bilateral relief assistance. Other Member States also continued to provide bilateral and other forms of humanitarian assistance.

Visas and registrations

43. A total of 57 new visa requests were submitted to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in April. Of these, 30 applications were approved, 2 were rejected and 25 remain pending. Five new visa requests submitted in earlier months were approved in April, while three were rejected. A total of 49 visa renewal requests were submitted in April. A further 29 visa renewals submitted in earlier months were also approved, while 2 remain pending.

44. A total of 17 international NGOs are registered with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to operate in the country. Four international NGOs are in the process of completing registration. Those organizations continued to face a series of administrative hurdles and restrictions that affect their ability to operate, including

in gaining permission to undertake independent needs assessments. Some 217 national NGOs are authorized by the Syrian Arab Republic to partner with the United Nations. One additional national NGO received such authorization during April.

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

45. In addition to the attacks on health facilities mentioned earlier, in early April, two distribution points for food and basic relief items in the Maydan neighbourhood of Damascus were temporarily closed due to a spike in mortar attacks.

46. On 30 April, due to the deteriorating security situation in Hasakah, humanitarian missions to Naruz, Ar Ruj, Mabrukah and Ayn Isa camps were cancelled.

47. Since the start of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including 21 staff members of the United Nations — of which 17 were UNRWA staff members — 65 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and eight staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. In addition, many staff members of international and national NGOs are reported to have been killed. A total of 29 United Nations staff, including one UNDP staff and 28 UNRWA staff, are detained or currently missing. In addition to the detained and missing, two United Nations staff have been conscripted for military service since 1 January, this despite United Nations officials being exempt from military service according to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 1946.

III. Observations

48. Over the past six months, owing to military advances and local agreements that profoundly affect the lives of vulnerable civilians, there have been significant changes to the front lines in the Syrian Arab Republic. This has led to some benefits, as civilians who had previously been under the control of ISIL are now accessible and can be provided with humanitarian assistance. However, for many hundreds of thousands, life continues as before, under conditions that are difficult to fathom.

49. Although the number of people in besieged areas has been reduced by about 20,000, to 624,500, in 13 areas, this does not represent an increase in the protection of civilians. In many instances, the end of sieges followed prolonged periods of heavy fighting and restricted humanitarian assistance. Tens of thousands of people also leave besieged areas after local agreements are reached. Such local agreements do not appear to meet international standards or humanitarian safeguards and may, in some circumstances, be characterized as forced population transfers to opposition-controlled areas, in which civilian infrastructure continues to be attacked regularly.

50. There were 30 credible reports of attacks on hospitals and medical facilities in April alone, including 21 confirmed reports. This is an indicator of the unacceptable conditions in which a large portion of the Syrian population continues to live. With the reported chemical attack in Khan Shaykhun on 4 April and the continued attacks against education facilities, markets and places of worship, the ongoing protection crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is without comparison in recent history. I continue to reiterate my call for the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to be referred to the International Criminal Court, and I call on all Member States to support the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the

Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

51. The United Nations has the ability to deliver assistance to 350,000 people each week with inter-agency cross-line convoys. It would be possible to reach all those in besieged areas every month, if only access were fully allowed and facilitated. However, the United Nations capacity to deliver is deliberately underutilized week after week. Restrictions by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in allowing aid to reach those most in need, despite having a two-month access plan and agreements to deliver from authorities in principle, continue to result in only a trickle of cross-line convoys each month, which is simply not enough to stem the acute suffering. Restrictions have been growing in other areas as well, as areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups in Idlib and the north-east of the country have increasingly constrained access. The international community must do better to reach those in need, and I call upon the members of the Security Council and the members of the International Syria Support Group to individually and collectively use their influence to improve humanitarian access in order to prevent the situation from growing even worse.

52. In Brussels, I noted the need to send a strong, constant message to the Syrian people that theirs will not be a forgotten war. It is for the sake of ordinary Syrians that the humanitarian and political efforts of the United Nations will continue. Nothing is more important or more urgent than ending this conflict without further delay. The suffering of the Syrian people will end only when a political solution can be achieved. The United Nations process in Geneva, building on advances on the Astana track of talks, remains the primary avenue for the attainment of a political settlement between Syrians within the framework of resolution 2254 (2015) and the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012. I remain committed to achieving progress within this framework.

Annex

Incidents affecting civilians recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, April 2017*

Rif Dimashq and Damascus governorates

- On 3 April, around 10.30 a.m., air strikes hit a residential area in opposition-controlled Saqba, reportedly resulting in the death of five civilians, including one woman.
- On 3 April, also around 10.30 a.m., air strikes hit a residential area in Hamuriyah, reportedly resulting in the death of three civilians.
- On 3 April, around 2 p.m., a medical centre in the opposition-held city of Jisrayn was reportedly hit by air strikes and partly damaged.
- On 3 April, around 5 p.m., air strikes hit a residential area in the opposition-held part of the city of Duma, reportedly resulting in 22 civilian casualties, including three children and two women. At least 50 civilians were also reportedly injured in the attack, including 10 children and eight women.
- On 4 April, at noon, air strikes hit a five-storey building located in a residential area of Saqba, causing its collapse and reportedly killing 10 civilians, including a pregnant woman, while injuring an undetermined number of others.
- On 4 April, around 5 p.m., air strikes hit the Jawz residential area in Saqba, reportedly resulting in the death of eight civilians, including two women and two children.
- On 4 April, around 5 p.m., air strikes hit a residential area in Hamuriyah, reportedly killing seven civilians, including four children (one girl and three boys).
- On 4 April in the afternoon, air strikes on a residential area of Duma reportedly resulted in the death of two civilians.
- On 4 April, air strikes on a residential area in Kafr Batna reportedly resulted in the death of two civilians.
- On 17 April, a ground-based strike hit a residential area of opposition-held Duma, reportedly killing a child.
- On 21 April, air strikes conducted between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the city of Duma reportedly resulted in the death of two civilians in residential areas and of two civilians in agricultural areas surrounding the city.
- On 26 April, a ground-based strike hit the residential Abu Rummanah area in Government-controlled Damascus, allegedly resulting in the death of two women.

* In line with resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of developments on the ground, and the incidents during the month that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been able to corroborate, relates to compliance with resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Ceasefire of the International Syria Support Group. The reporting is not a comprehensive listing of all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law that took place in the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period.

- On 16 April, a mine exploded in the southern outskirts of Madaya, reportedly killing a child and injuring five others.

Dar'a governorate

- On 1 April, two children were reportedly killed in a landmine explosion in the opposition-held town of Da'il.
- On 3 April, air strikes launched around 9.15 p.m. on the area of Dar'a al-Balad allegedly killed a civilian as he was reportedly working on electrical repairs.
- On 4 April, around 1 a.m., air strikes hit a residential area of the opposition-held town of Simlin, reportedly killing four members of a displaced family from Inkhil.
- On 6 April, around 10.30 p.m., air strikes hit the opposition-held neighbourhood of Tariq al-Sadd in Dar'a, allegedly killing a family of five: a pregnant woman, her husband and their three children — two boys and a girl.
- On 8 April, air strikes hit the opposition-controlled area of Nasib, located on the Jordanian border, reportedly killing three children (including a girl) and wounding an undetermined number of other civilians, primarily women and children.
- On 9 April, at 1.30 a.m., a hospital in Da'il was hit by air strikes, which reportedly resulted in the killing of a male nurse and injury to three other civilians, including two female nurses. The hospital was damaged.
- On 11 April, a civilian was killed when ground-based strikes hit the Khalid ibn al-Walid Army-controlled town of Tasil.
- On 14 April, an aid worker was allegedly killed in an air strike that hit the opposition-controlled area of Dar'a al-Mahattah in Dar'a city.
- On 26 April, around 1 a.m., air strikes hit a residential area of Simlin and reportedly killed a family of four, including a boy and a girl, and injured an undetermined number of civilians.
- On 28 April, Khalid ibn al-Walid Army fighters reportedly summarily executed eight civilians in Tasil, allegedly due to their affiliation with other armed opposition groups.
- On 29 April, Khalid ibn al-Walid Army allegedly publicly decapitated a civilian in Tasil after they accused him of "sorcery".
- On 30 April, air strikes hit residential areas in Dar'a al-Balad and reportedly killed nine civilians, including two women and three children (one boy and two girls), and injured an undetermined number of civilians.
- On 30 April, air strikes hit a residential area in the city of Busra al-Hariri, reportedly causing the death of two civilians, including the head of the Busra al-Hariri local council.
- On 30 April, air strikes on a residential area in Na'imah allegedly killed a civilian woman and her five-year-old child.

Aleppo governorate

- On 1 April, air strikes hit the building of the Radwan humanitarian association, located in Urum al-Kubra town, in western rural Aleppo, allegedly killing four children and injuring three civilians.

- On 3 April, ground-based strikes hit residential areas in the village of Yaqid al-Adas, in northern rural Aleppo, and allegedly killed five civilians, including three children.
- On 8 April, at dawn, air strikes hit residential areas in the opposition-held town of Darat Izzah, in western rural Aleppo, reportedly killing a mother and her child and injuring at least seven other civilians.
- On 22 April, a woman and her two children were allegedly killed when air strikes hit residential areas of Darat Izzah town in western rural Aleppo.
- On 27 April in the morning, air strikes hit residential areas of Kafr Naha town in western rural Aleppo and allegedly killed two civilians while injuring nine others, including seven children and two women.

Idlib governorate

- On 2 April, air strikes hit the opposition-held city of Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, reportedly injuring an undetermined number of civilians, causing extensive destruction and putting the city's main hospital out of service.
- On 3 April, air strikes hit residential areas in Habit town in the Khan Shaykhun district, reportedly killing two children and injuring 20 other civilians.
- On 3 April, air strikes hit the city of Khan Shaykhun, reportedly killing three male civilians.
- On 4 April, at around 7 a.m., air strikes hit residential areas of the Furn neighbourhood located in the north of Khan Shaykhun city, reportedly killing 90 civilians, including 28 children and 20 women, after apparent exposure to toxic agents. Five on-duty civil defence members and three journalists were injured while covering the attack. At approximately 1 p.m., the main hospital of Khan Shaykhun, which had received those injured in the earlier attack, was hit, as was the adjacent civil defence centre. The strikes reportedly caused some material damage to the facilities. In a statement issued the same day, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons raised serious concerns about the alleged use of chemical weapons and indicated that it was investigating the incident.
- On 4 April, air strikes hit a residential area in opposition-held Salqin, north-east of Idlib, allegedly killing at least 26 civilians, including 14 children and six women. Most of the victims were reportedly internally displaced persons from Aleppo and Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 4 April, air strikes hit residential areas in Saraqib city, reportedly killing a civilian woman and her three children.
- In the afternoon of 4 April, air strikes hit residential areas in the al-Sina'ah neighbourhood of Jisr al-Shughur, reportedly killing seven civilians, including a child, and injuring an undetermined number of civilians.
- On 5 April, ground-based strikes hit the besieged town of Al-Fu'ah, reportedly injuring three civilians, including one woman and a six-year-old child.
- On 6 April, ground-based strikes reportedly hit Al-Fu'ah, allegedly injuring four civilians, including three children.
- On 6 April, air strikes hit residential areas in the village of Zahiriyah near Ariha, reportedly killing two girls who were sisters.

- On 6 April, a civilian was reportedly killed by elements of the Levant Liberation Organization (which includes the group formerly known as Nusrah Front) in Khan al-Subul in Ma'arrat al-Nu'man.
- On 7 April, air strikes hit residential areas in the town of Haysh, located near Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, reportedly killing three male civilians and injuring an undetermined number of others.
- On 7 April, air strikes hit western parts of Jisr al-Shughur city, reportedly killing two civil defence members and injuring two others.
- On 7 April, ground-based strikes reportedly hit Fu'ah, allegedly killing a 14-year-old boy.
- On 8 April, air strikes hit shops and houses along the main avenue of Urum al-Jawz city in Ariha, reportedly killing 20 civilians, including seven children and one woman, and injuring at least 20 others.
- On 8 April, several air strikes were reported to have hit the town of Haysh, allegedly damaging a medical facility in the vicinity.
- On 8 April, ground-based strikes hit Fu'ah and reportedly injured two male civilians.
- On 9 April, air strikes hit residential areas in the city of Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, reportedly killing two male civilians.
- On 11 April, air strikes hit residential areas in Hambushiyah village in Jisr al-Shughur, reportedly killing three civilians, including a child.
- On 17 April, a mother and child hospital in Shinan was hit by air strikes that reportedly injured an undetermined number of civilians in the hospital and damaged the facility, putting it out of service.
- On 18 April, at dawn, air strikes hit a residential area in the city of Ma'arrat Hurmah, reportedly resulting in the deaths of 11 civilians, including nine children (five girls and four boys), and injuring an undetermined number of others.
- On 22 April, four civilians were allegedly killed when an air strike hit the village of Ihsim.
- On 22 April in the afternoon, an underground field hospital located near Abdin was hit by air strikes, and four civilians were killed.
- On 25 April, shortly after midnight, air strikes struck the area of Jabal Duwaylah, south-west of Kafr Takharim city, allegedly killing 15 civilians, including five internally displaced persons.
- On 25 April, around 2 a.m., a hospital in Kafr Takharim city was reportedly hit by air strikes and consequently put out of service. No casualties were reported in the attack.
- On 24 April, around 1.30 p.m., air strikes hit a food market in Khan Shaykhun, allegedly killing seven civilians and wounding an undetermined number of others.
- On 27 April, at dawn, air strikes hit a hospital in the eastern outskirts of Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, reportedly resulting in the death of three civilians who were in intensive care, including a woman and a girl. An undetermined number of other civilians, including medical personnel, were reportedly injured in the strike, and the hospital was partly destroyed. The facility was hit again by air strikes later the same day.

- On 27 April, a funeral procession in Ma'arr Shurin town was reportedly hit by air strikes, which allegedly killed seven civilians and injured an undetermined number of others.
- On 27 April, air strikes hit a civil defence centre near the town of Ma'arr Zaytah and started a fire in the facility. Later the same day, the location was hit by further air strikes, which reportedly killed four civil defence members and caused significant material damage, including the destruction of several ambulances.
- On 27 April, air strikes hit a residential area of Sarjah city and reportedly killed a child.
- On 27 April, air strikes hit Khan Shaykhun, reportedly killing eight civilians, including a woman and three children, in addition to wounding an undetermined number of others.

Hama governorate

- On 8 April, an improvised explosive device placed underneath a bus transporting civilians exploded in Zahra' neighbourhood in the Government-controlled city of Homs, reportedly killing five civilians, including four women, and injuring nine others.
- On 29 April, around noon, air strikes hit a medical facility in Kafr Zayta city, reportedly resulting in the death of eight Civil Defence members and in the destruction of the facility. Around 2 p.m., a second air strike hit the same location, reportedly killing two civilians.
- On 29 April, around 9 p.m., another medical centre located in the outskirts of Kafr Zayta was hit by air strikes that reportedly put the facility out of order.

Dayr al-Zawr governorate

- On 3 April, two vehicle borne improvised explosive devices detonated at a Syrian Democratic Forces-controlled checkpoint on al-Mahattah Street in Jazrat al-Buhamid town, located in western rural Deir-ez-Zor. The first one exploded at the checkpoint, and the other detonated 30 minutes later as civilians gathered around the location. As a result, five civilians, including one woman, were allegedly killed and at least 15 others injured, including children.
- On 9 April, two civilians were reportedly killed and at least 17 others injured by ground-based strikes on residential areas in Wadi Street in the Government-controlled Jurah neighbourhood in Dayr al-Zawr city.
- On 13 April, one civilian was allegedly killed and at least two others injured by ground-based fire on the Government-held part of Dayr al-Zawr city.
- On 17 April, a girl was reportedly killed by ground-based fire in the Government-held part of Dayr al-Zawr city.
- On 16 April, ground-based strikes hit residential areas in the Government-controlled Harabish neighbourhood of Dayr al-Zawr city and reportedly killed five civilians and injured nine others.
- On 17 April, at approximately 10 p.m., air strikes hit a residential compound in Albu Kamal city and reportedly killed at least 20 civilians, including nine Iraqi civilians who had recently fled Iraq, and injured at least 30 others. The United States-led coalition stated in its public reporting that, on the same day,

it had conducted a strike that destroyed an ISIL staging area in the vicinity of Albu Kamal.

- On 17 April, air strikes destroyed the building of the former Agriculture College in the town of Husayniyah in north-west rural Dayr al-Zawr. Located in a residential area, the building was being used by ISIL as an office. The air strikes reportedly killed at least 11 civilians, including women and children, and injured an undetermined number of others.

- On 18 April, ground-based strikes hit residential areas in the al-Jurah neighbourhood of Dayr al-Zawr, reportedly killing three civilians, including a girl under the age of 10.

Raqqah governorate

- On 3 April, air strikes hit a house in Hamrat Ghanam village in eastern rural Raqqah, reportedly killing four civilians, including two women, and injuring three others, including two women.

- On 7 April in the afternoon, air strikes hit an Internet cafe and some houses in the village of Hunaydah in western rural Raqqah and reportedly killed at least 13 civilians, including two boys and a woman, and injured 23 others.

- On 8 April, a boat transporting at least 40 civilians fleeing heavy air strikes and ground-based strikes was hit as it was crossing the Euphrates River in the area of Tabaqah. A woman and her six children were allegedly killed in the attack, with the fate of the rest of the passengers unknown. The Unites States-led coalition stated in its public reporting that it had conducted 10 strikes near Tabaqah on 8 April, engaging 10 ISIL tactical units, destroying two defensive fighting positions and destroying four ISIL vehicles.

- On 22 April, air strikes hit the Al-Hal market area of Tabaqah city and reportedly killed a family (a couple and three children). The United States-led coalition stated in its public reporting that it had conducted eight strikes near Tabaqah on 22 April, engaging six ISIL tactical units and destroying five fighting positions and two improvised explosive devices.

- On 23 April, a civilian woman and her two children were reportedly killed when an improvised explosive device detonated in their vicinity in the Zuwayqat neighbourhood of Tabaqah city.

- On 24 April, air strikes hit a vehicle that was reportedly carrying civilians trying to escape the Tabaqah area. At least eight civilians from one family were allegedly injured, including three women and five children aged between three months and 15 years of age. The United States-led coalition stated in its public reporting that it had conducted seven strikes near Tabaqah on 24 April, engaging three ISIL tactical units, destroying three ISIL command and control nodes, a fighting position and a heavy machine gun and suppressing two ISIL tactical units.

- On 25 April, at approximately 11 p.m., air strikes hit three houses of civilians north of Ajrawi roundabout in the centre of Tabaqah city and reportedly killed 16 civilians, including nine children and five women. The United States-led coalition stated in its public reporting that it had conducted six strikes near Tabaqah on 25 April, engaging four ISIL tactical units and destroying four fighting positions and a fuel truck.